



# MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to March's newsletter. This month - and this half term - has flown by, as usual. We only have four more days at school next week before we break up for the Easter holidays. Next week will be so much fun with our Easter Egg decorating competition and our brand new Easter Eggstravaganza to finish off the Spring term! This month, the children have been very busy in their learning and we were delighted to welcome so many parents and carers to our Parents into Classroom events. The children really do love sharing their work in books with their grown ups as well as the excitement of the possibility of being presented with a certificate!

## Classroom News

**Nursery** – Nursery have had great fun learning about the life cycle of the butterfly by exploring the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We have also planted seeds and can't wait for them to grow in our garden. A big thank you to all the parents and family members who attended our Nursery stay and play - the children had great fun.

**Reception** – Reception have enjoyed observing changes in the seasons and we have welcomed the slightly warmer weather now that it is Spring time! We have been practising our writing as we are making our Spring non fiction book and we are writing sentences now! We are also learning about Easter and we have studied the Easter story. We are learning to retell the story and make comparisons between the past and nowadays and also making connections with other religious stories we have studied.

**Year 1** – March has been a lovely month in Year 1. We have enjoyed exploring the changing seasons and learning about the weather as we move from winter into spring, noticing lots of changes around us. The children have enjoyed going on walks around the yard to observe these changes and have had great fun role-playing as weather reporters. The children loved our trip to NUcastle to take part in a Multiskills event and they also had lots of fun when NUFC visited us in school for Easter crafts and activities. This month, we have been focusing on addition in Maths and the children are becoming increasingly confident when adding numbers up to 20!

**Year 2** – Year 2 have had a fun half term! In English, they have been reading the book, 'My Name is not Refugee'. They have learnt what the word "refugee" means and they have spoken about different feelings and emotions. They have written a poem about life as a refugee, too. In PE, they have been practising for the Skipping Festival which takes place in June and they have made excellent progress so far! They had a brilliant Science Week where they explored the importance of eating healthily, exercise and hygiene. Last week, they enjoyed a session led by NUFC where they participated in Easter crafts and activities. They have been learning all about the Easter story in RE. What a brilliant half term, happy Easter everyone!

**The Butterflies** - The children have enjoyed the return of the sunshine with lots of fun in the sensory garden - playing in the water, mud kitchen and water tray. We have enjoyed Science Week and have taken part in a range of scientific experiments with magnets, ice and floating and sinking. We have also been reading lots of different stories about Bears and have created our own bear cave, bear paintings and made jam, cheese and ham sandwiches for our Teddy Bears Picnic. We have enjoyed time in the Hall for PE and have been taking part in Yoga, Danny Go Movement and using the apparatus to create different sequences and shapes.

**Year 3** - Year 3 have really enjoyed learning some basic cookery skills with Debbie from Country Trust. We have made tzatziki and crudites and cous cous salad. The children have been learning how the ingredients are produced and where they come from. The children took part in the multiskills festival and joined in with a range of games and challenges at NUCastle. The children have enjoyed learning about Christianity and how Christians prepare for Easter. We enjoyed a rather wet walk to St John's Church where we listened to Reverend Helen tell us about how the church gets ready for Easter and the children found the features of the church and learned

why they are important. The children have enjoyed learning about magnetism, asking their own questions and suggesting ways to find the answers. We are looking forward to finding out what we will be learning about next.

**Year 4** - In Year 4, we have been working hard in our English lessons where the children have completed their retell of our class text, 'The Wisp'. They have produced some lovely descriptive writing using key features such as fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases to bring their ideas to life. We also had fun celebrating World Book Day! The children especially enjoyed coming to school in their pyjamas and sharing their favourite books with one another. They took part in discussions, recommended stories to their peers, and spent time reading for pleasure. The children have been enjoying their music lessons, too, where they have been developing their singing skills and learning to play the glockenspiels. It has been great to see their confidence grow as they perform and explore different sounds and rhythms.

**Year 5** – Year 5 have worked tremendously hard in all areas of the curriculum and have shown a particular interest in the song 'Madina Tun Nabi', an Arabic song which our music topic has been based on. Continuing with a music focus, children performed the song 'The Ordinary' as part of our celebration of 'National Sing Up' day and showcased their excellent singing voices and practice that had gone into the performance. Children have also shown enthusiasm for Hockey in PE and a few of the children competed against other North Tyneside schools in a competition at The Parks this week.

**Year 6** – 8 children from across Year 5 and 6 attended a hockey tournament at the Parks Sports Centre, competing with several local schools. Despite wet conditions, they performed very well - not losing any games. Some children have been receiving 'enhanced transition' sessions with a professional from Education North Tyneside to help children prepare for the move to secondary education. Year 5 and Year 6 walked up to Norham High School to watch their production of the musical Grease. It was a great chance to see how sets and music were done and to see some great acting.

### **Staffing News**

At the end of this term, we will be bidding a fond farewell to Miss Badminton who will be beginning her maternity leave. We wish her all the very best and hope that she has some time to rest and put her feet up before the baby arrives!

### **The Butterfly Room**

After the Easter holiday, the Butterfly class will be moving into their new classroom, "Butterflies @ The Hut," located at the top end of the school corridor within The Retreat. From this point on, children will arrive at school directly at The Hut and will also be dismissed from there by their teachers. This larger, thoughtfully designed space has been carefully arranged to support the children's current stage of development while enabling a bespoke curriculum tailored to their needs. The classroom includes a variety of dedicated areas such as a workstation, calm corner, reading area, sensory play area, and role play area, along with opportunities for regulation through sensory toys and a climbing wall. In addition, The Hut will feature "The Den," a purpose-built sensory room equipped with fibre optic lights, a full-length mirror, and calming lights and sounds. We are all very much looking forward to this exciting transition and are confident it will greatly benefit our children. We would also like to thank parents for their continued support as we move into our new classroom.

### **STOP PRESS! IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT - Our NEW Breakfast Club - 'Ready, Set, Breakfast Club'**

We are very excited to share with you details of 'Ready, Set, Breakfast': our fabulous all new breakfast club, launching on **Monday 20th April 2026**.

See below for answers to FAQ's

### **What is the new breakfast club offer?**

We are delighted to be part of the government's new *Free Breakfast Club Programme*, which is funding universal breakfast clubs *across the country*.

As part of the offer, Riverside Primary School will offer above the minimum requirement of **30 minutes of childcare alongside a free breakfast**. The club is open to all pupils from Nursery to Year 6.

### **Is the club free for my child to attend?**

Yes – the club is free to attend

### **What time does it start?**

Doors will open AT THE EARLIER TIME OF 8.10am and will close at 8.40am prompt. No child will be admitted after 8.40am.

### **What can my child expect from the club?**

Your child will be provided with a nutritious, fuel-giving breakfast, supervised by breakfast club staff. Enrichment and extended learning activities such as games, toys, puzzles and drawing will also be provided, as well as access to IT learning programs which will support literacy and numeracy skills building.

### **What food will you serve to my child at the breakfast club?**

Your child will be offered a nutritious breakfast during the breakfast club. This will include lots of delicious breakfast treats including cereal, fruit, beans on toast, scrambled eggs and milkshakes as well as 'Bacon Butty Friday'. All foods are compliant with the School Food Standards.

### **Easter Egg Competition**

Next week, we are inviting all children to take part in our annual Easter Egg decorating competition! Children should boil some eggs then decorate them in the design of their choice! Over the years, we have had some really unique and creative entries and I am always amazed at the level of care and depth of imagination that goes into them. Children can bring their entries in from Monday. The decorated eggs will be displayed in the hall so that all children have a chance to see them. All entries MUST be in by 9.00am on Thursday, ready for judging by a 'mystery judge'. Prizes of large Easter Eggs are presented to one winner each from EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2 (4 prizes in total). Parents who attend our Easter Eggstravaganza in the afternoon will be able to view all competition entries in the hall (before taking their child's decorated eggs home!)

### **Easter Eggstravaganza**

We have already advertised this event on our app but this is a further reminder that we would like to invite all parents, carers and friends (and ex-pupils!) to our first Easter Eggstravaganza event. The event starts at 1.30pm and entry will be via the Hall. Within the hall, we will have our Chocolate Tombola stall, 'Wine or Water' stall, our pop-up market and there will be Easter Hot Chocolate available. You will be able to listen to our school choir sing some wonderful songs and then go into the main school where you will be able to complete some Easter crafts with your children. The Easter event is a repeat of the Christmas Extravaganza - however, we took all your feedback on board and have moved the Easter event into the main hall, instead of the main entrance so there will be more room to move!

### **'Eggstra' Special End of Term Awards Assembly**

Next week, at our end of term assembly we will be presenting the following awards:

- Easter Egg Competition winners
- 100% attendance and punctuality for the Spring Term (certificate and Amazon voucher)
- Sunshine Award (certificate and sunshine pin badge)
- Top Class Attendance for Spring Term

### **School Uniform**

We are aware that the link on our website for our uniform supplier was broken - it is now fixed! Here it is: <https://www.riverside.schoolii.co.uk/shop>

We would like to remind parents of our school uniform expectations:

- Plain white polo shirt or white shirt with a collar.
- **Official purple school jumper or cardigan with school logo** (from Custom Planet)
- Plain grey/black trousers or skirt.
- Black 'school' shoes or plain black trainers. Coloured trainers or trainers with logos and different coloured soles are NOT permitted.
- Black plimsolls for inside school and for indoor PE lessons

Please note: jogging bottoms or tracksuit bottoms should only be worn on the days your child has PE. They are not to be worn everyday instead of trousers.

### **Summer Term Forward Dates**

The new dates for the Summer Term will be published on the website next week. The summer term is always a busy one, especially towards the end (June/July) when there are trips and a range of events where parents have the opportunity to come into school. Please ensure you make a date in your own calendars/diaries for these events, well in advance, so that you don't miss out!

### **Academic Year dates 2026-27**

Term and holiday dates for the new academic year are now on the website. Please note that in September 2026 - July 2027, there will be **5 teacher training days where school will be closed to pupils**. Usually, we are only closed to pupils on THREE days in an academic year, however, we are a North Tyneside maintained school and North Tyneside makes the decision on the number of training days to be taken in any year.

### **Spring Term Parent Consultations**

A reminder to parents that our Spring Term parent consultations will take place next week - on Tuesday and Wednesday from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Please make sure you have booked an appointment to see your child's class teacher. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's learning and progress and find out how you can support your child's learning at home.

### **Spring Term Parents Into Classrooms / 'Stay and Plays'**

Our children really enjoyed welcoming their grown-ups into school this week and last week for our 'Parents into Classroom' events. The children loved the opportunity to share their learning with parents, looking through work in books and seeing work on display in the classroom. It was lovely to see so many of you there and many of the classrooms were full with more than one grown-up for each child!

### **World Book Day**

This year, World Book Day was celebrated on Thursday 5th March, with the wonderful theme of 'Reading for Fun'. The children arrived at school full of excitement, dressed either as their favourite book characters or in their favourite pyjamas with their favourite bedtime stories. Thank you for helping to make the day so special — it was a memorable experience for the children and truly brought the joy of reading to life.

Our annual Book Fair ran from Monday 9th to Friday 13th March and proved to be a great success. Every class had the chance to visit the Fair during the school day, look at all the different books and create their own wish lists. Thanks to your generosity, we raised £525 in 'rewards' for the school. These funds will go towards purchasing new books and book sets to further enrich the children's learning.

### **First Lego League**

On Thursday 12th March, a team of ten children from Years 5 and 6 competed in the regional Lego League tournament at The Village hotel. They presented their project idea of a robot to help archaeologists sift through spoil heaps for missed artefacts to a team of judges. They used a Lego robot that they spent a long-time programming to solve timed challenges on the gaming table and they also had a lot of fun solving Lego escape room puzzles and working together to build with large bricks. We are very proud of the hard work they have put into Lego League this year and how well they presented themselves and their work on the day. They were a credit to Riverside in the way they interacted with staff, volunteers and children from other schools!

### **National Sing Up Day - Abi**

Yesterday, all classes in school came together to celebrate singing and music. All classes learned a song and we performed these for each other in Singing Assembly. Many of the children found this an enjoyable experience and we will celebrate this event in a bigger way next year.

### **Open the Book Assembly**

The children have enjoyed another 'Open the book' assembly organised by Irene Frith from St Columba's United Reformed Church, North Shields. This time, they acted out the story of Palm Sunday. The children enjoyed

listening for the word 'donkey' and participating. Also, a big thank you to our volunteer actors for this assembly: Dominic, Addison, Thomas and Sahannah.

### **Sports Desk**

We have provided a lot of sporting opportunities for our children this month:

- Year 1 Multiskills at NUCastle
- Yoga Club for Years 1-3 on a Monday Lunchtime
- Yoga Club for Years 4-6 on a Wednesday Lunchtime
- Year 3 Multiskills at NUCastle
- Year 5/6 Hockey tournament at The Parks
- Year 4 Skipping Festival at The Parks

### **School Office**

The School Office is open Monday to Thursday from 8.00am - 4.00pm and 8.00am - 3.30pm on Fridays. The school answerphone is in use outside of these times if you wish to leave a message. All messages are picked up at 8.00am. The school office staff are Ms Taylor, School Business Manager, and Miss Clay, Administration Assistant. Miss Cameron is also on the front desk in the Main Reception from 8.50am – 9.15am, every day.

### **Data Collection**

It is particularly important that we have your current mobile phone number on file in case of emergency contact so if you do change your phone number, or details of your emergency contacts, it is essential you tell us straight away.

### **School Meals Ordering System – Hutchison's Appetite**

Can we please remind parents to order their child's school meals in advance. This ensures that your child will be served with food that they like to eat. It is very distressing for a child when they have not ordered a meal - and are given the main meal option - and they do not like it. We do not want any child to go without food at lunchtime so it is absolutely essential that their daily meal is ordered for them by the parent/carer. The new Summer Menu will be available after Easter and there are new meal options (including chilli con carne!) as well as the usual 'favourites' like margherita pizza!

### **Reminder.....**

Please remember that the clocks go forward this weekend. On Sunday morning at 1.00am, the clocks will move forwards to 2.00am. Please make sure you are NOT an hour early on Monday morning!